

The Panda and the Bamboo

There were once two pandas, Mao from a big city and Chu from a small village, who both grew bamboo to sell to their city and village neighbours. Chu was a steadfast worker who made sure that his bamboos were beautiful and full of nutrients for the neighbouring pandas to eat. But one day, Mao was tired of the long process that it took to grow thick and tall bamboo shoots that were full of nutrients. He experimented with a fertilizer that helped him grow bamboo faster and that required less care. This fertilizer helped the bamboos grow twice as fast, and the bamboo tasted and looked exactly the same as before! Mao said to himself, "If I sell this for a much cheaper price than Chu, I will make more money than Chu!" So Mao ordered his worker pandas to begin to produce his special bamboo very quickly.

While Chu was tending to his bamboo plants in his village, his panda neighbour told him that Mao was making lots of money from his special bamboo because he was selling it for much cheaper. His neighbour told him the only way he was going to compete with Mao was if he also used the fertilizer too, but Chu was stern in the way that he grew his bamboo and would not agree to it. Eventually, the success of Mao's bamboos made Chu close down his bamboo garden because no village wanted to pay more for his bamboos. Mao had successfully monopolized the bamboo market!

After a year of selling his bamboos Mao heard in the news that there were many pandas who were sick and some that eventually died, and their sickness was said to be caused by his bamboos! The pandas had no other choice of bamboo so they were forced to buy Mao's bamboos to survive.

Sadly, Mao's bamboos had become the new standard for bamboos because the pandas had forgotten the once old, beautiful, and nutritious bamboo that existed...